

Message Text

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ORIGIN PM-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 L-03 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-20 NSC-07 ACDA-19 SP-03 /108 R

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L/PM:MR. BOREK
EUR/RPM:LTC THOMPSON
EUR/SE:MR. GEORGE
EB/OA:MISS GRAVATT

----- 047645

P R 172215Z SEP 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
USCINCEUR
CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON
CINCUSAFE
CSAF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE
USDOCO SOUTH NAPLES

S E C R E T STATE 204669

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: MILI, OCLR, GR
SUBJECT: CARRIER AIR OPERATIONS

REFS: (A) CINCUSNAVEUR 031609Z SEP 74. (B) CINCUSNAVEUR
031800Z SEP 74 (PASEP). (C) USCINCEUR 032337Z SEP 74
(PASEP).

1. IN REF A, USDAO ATHENS QUOTED A LETTER FROM HAF
CONCERNING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF ATHINAI FIR BY
SIXTHFLT AIRCRAFT. IN REF B, CINCUSNAVEUR STATED
INCOMPATIBILITY OF GREEK DEMANDS WITH SIXTHFLT
OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS AND REQUESTED GOVERNMENT TO
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GOVERNMENT CONTACT TO CORRECT THE PROBLEM. IN REF C,

USCINCEUR CONCURRED WITH REF B AND REQUESTED SUCH ACTION AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE TO CLEARLY ESTABLISH US POSITION FOR FLIGHTS IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS.

2. RECOGNIZING THE SENSITIVITY OF GREEKS ON THIS AND RELATED FLIGHT CLEARANCE MATTERS, THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION AND USE AT YOUR DISCRETION.

3. THE ENTIRE MEDITERRANEAN AREA IS COMPOSED OF FIR'S AND TO SUBMIT TO RESTRICTIONS IN ANY GIVEN FIR COULD LEAD EVENTUALLY TO RESTRICTIONS IN OTHERS THAT COULD

SEVERELY LIMIT SIXTHFLT OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE AND IT HAS LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS INIMICAL TO THE DEFENSE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA.

4. SIXTH FLEET OPERATIONAL FLIGHTS, ALTHOUGH CONDUCTED IN AN FIR, DO NOT ENTER NATIONAL AIRSPACE. THEY REMAIN IN INTERNATIONAL AIRSPACE OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND THEREFORE DO NOT REQUIRE PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO, COORDINATION WITH OR CONSENT OF THE AUTHORITY ADMINISTERING THE FIR. DUE TO THE NATURE OF CARRIER AIR OPERATIONS, IT IS IMPRACTICAL TO FILE ICAO FLIGHT PLANS FOR EACH AIRCRAFT.

5. SHOULD YOUDESIRE TO DO SO, YOU MAY ASSURE GOG THAT THE FLIGHTS ARE UNDER RADAR CONTROL OF THE CARRIER TO ENSURE ADEQUATE SAFE SEPARATION, AVOID NATIONAL AIRSPACE AND ADHERE TO SAFETY OF FLIGHT PROCEDURES AS RELATED TO ESTABLISHED AIRWAYS. FURTHER, US MILITARY AIRCREWS ARE UNDER STANDING INSTRUCTIONS TO SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID ANY ACTIONS THAT WOULD IN ANY WAY ENDANGER AIR OR SEA TRAFFIC.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT SUCH PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES WILL, AS IN THE PAST, ENSURE THAT SIXTH FLEET AIR OPERATIONS DO NOT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR GREEK AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FIGHTER AIRCRAFT, NAVAL FORCES, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, ALLEGATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, MILITARY FLIGHT CLEARANCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE204669
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: 3:COL BLOACHI:PM/ISO:FFLEMINGS:DME
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740260-1006
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740938/aaaabftg.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PM
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) CINCUSNAVEUR 031609Z SEP 74. (B)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CARRIER AIR OPERATIONS
TAGS: MILI, OCLR, GR, US
To: ATHENS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005